

Remarks

Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 12, 20 and 29 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-6, 11-15, 20-21, 25 and 29-34 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takemoto, et al. (US 5,065,246) patent in view of the Kuba, et al. (US 5,806,072) patent. The Examiner has also rejected applicant's claims 7-8, 17, 22-24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takemoto, et al. patent in view of the Kuba, et al. patent in further view of the Jeong (US 6,130,988) patent. Applicant's claims 9-10 and 18-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takemoto, et al. patent in view of the Kuba, et al. patent, in further view of the Jeong patent and the Honda (US 6,181,878) patent. Applicant's claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Takemoto, et al. patent in view of the Kuba, et al. patent in further view of the Abe, et al. (US 5,515,174) patent. With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 12, 20 and 29 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly, applicant's independent claims have a common feature that a common memory is used for performing processing such as compression or expansion of an amount of information of an image signal and is also used for the controlling the generation and combining operation of character signals so as to increase the efficiency of the processing of the image signal and of the generation of the character signal. Specifically, these claims now recite a generator for generating a character signal and a controller for controlling a combining operation of the character signal, and further that the common

memory stores the character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to the control signal generated by the controller for the combining operation of the character signal.

The above features are now recited in claims 1, 12, 20 and 29 as follows:

Claim 1

generating means for generating a character signal;

control means for controlling a combination operation of the character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said encoding means and said generating means and having a common memory for storing the video signal to perform an encoding process by said encoding means and storing the character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by said control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal.

Claim 12

generating means for generating a character signal;

control means for controlling the combination operation of the character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said expanding means and said generating means and having a common memory for storing the compressed video signal to perform an expanding process by said expanding means and storing the character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by said control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal.

Claim 20

generating means for generating a character signal;

control means for controlling a combination operation of the character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said processing means and said generating means and having a common memory for storing the video signal and the processed video signal so as to perform the predetermined process by said processing means and storing the character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by said control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal.

Claim 29

generating means for generating a character signal;

control means for controlling a combination operation of the character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said compressing means, said recording means and said generating means, and having a common memory for storing the video signal to perform a compressing process by said compressing means, the compressed video signal outputted from said compressing means to record on the recording medium by said recording means and the character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by said control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the cited Takemoto, et al. patent discloses a digital camera in which image data amounting to one frame of a picked-up image is stored in page memories (42, 45). The stored data is compressed in compression and expansion parts (47, 48), and is then stored in a memory (33) with the raster data generated by character generator (57).

There is, therefore, no teaching or suggestion in the Takemoto, et al. patent of the use of a generator for generating a character signal, a control means for controlling the combination operation of the character signal and a common memory for storing the character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by the control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal. As previously stated, the memory 33 in the Takemoto, et al. patent merely stores the raster data generated by the character generator and there is no storing of a character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by a control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal.

Applicant's amended claim 1, 12, 20 and 29, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Takemoto, et al. patent. The Kuba, et al. patent was cited for features unrelated to those discussed above as patentably distinguishing applicant's amended claims over the Takemoto, et al. patent.

Applicant's amended claims thus patentably distinguish over the combination of the Takemoto, et al. and Kuba, et al. patents.

Applicant submits that the teachings of the Jeong and Honda patents fail to add anything to the Takemoto, et al. and Kuba, et al. patents to change this conclusion. In this regard, the Takemoto, et al. and Kuba, et al. patents, even when viewed in light of the Jeong patent, would not result in a device or apparatus having the combination of a generator for generating a character signal, a control means for controlling the combination operation of the character signal and a common memory for storing the character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by the control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal. Moreover, the Honda patent merely teaches the use of codes in a memory corresponding to place information, and this patent, even when combined with the other patents, would not result in a device having common memory for storing a character signal using a predetermined table value corresponding to a control signal by a control means to perform the combining operation of the character signal.

Applicant's amended claim 1, 12, 20 and 29, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the combination of the Takemoto, et al., Kuba, et al., Jeong and Honda patents. Moreover, the Abe, et al. patent fails to add anything to the latter patents to change this conclusion


In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is

respectfully requested.

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